

# SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS SCAG SPOTLIGHT



Legislation and Policy Affecting Our Region

February 2012

## Special Edition

Highlights from the Joint Meeting of the  
Regional Council and Policy Committees

February 21, 2012

**INFORMATION – Comments and Revisions  
Approaches to the 2012-2035 RTP/SCS PEIR**



SCAG President Pam O'Connor & members of the Regional Council

The Regional Council and Policy Committees convened a joint meeting on Tuesday, February 21, 2012 to discuss the Program Environmental Impact Report (PEIR) for the 2012-2035 Regional Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategy (RTP/SCS). The Draft PEIR was released for a 45-day public review and comment on December 30, 2011 and the public comment period ended on February 14, 2012. SCAG prepared a draft PEIR to perform a region-wide programmatic assessment of the significant environmental effects of implementing the projects, programs and policies included in the 2012-2035 RTP/SCS. However, all transportation projects contained in the 2012-2035 RTP/SCS will be subject to their own project-level environmental review in compliance with CEQA.

SCAG received approximately 100 comment letters generally falling into five major categories. At the meeting, SCAG staff provided an overview of the comments received on the PEIR and highlighted suggested approaches to address concerns raised. For more detail on the comments received and revision approaches, the staff report is available at <http://bit.ly/staffreport>.

The proposed Final PEIR will be released on March 15, 2012 and will be considered by the Policy Committees on March 21 to be forwarded to the Regional Council for approval on April 4, 2012.

## About the RTP/SCS

### What is an RTP?

The Regional Transportation Plan is a long-range transportation plan that provides a vision for regional transportation investments over a 20-plus year period. Using growth forecasts and economic trends, the RTP considers the role of transportation in a more holistic light, including economic factors, environmental issues and quality-of-life goals. The RTP provides an opportunity to identify transportation strategies today that address our mobility needs for the future.

The RTP is updated every four years to reflect changes in economic trends, State and Federal requirements, progress made on projects and adjustments for population and jobs. Transportation projects must be included in the RTP in order to qualify for Federal and State funding. The last RTP was adopted by SCAG's Regional Council in 2008.

### What is an SCS?

The Sustainable Communities Strategy (SCS) is a new element of the RTP that will demonstrate the integration of land use, transportation strategies, and transportation investments within the Plan. This new requirement was put in place by the passage of SB 375, with the goal of ensuring that the SCAG region can meet its regional greenhouse gas reduction targets set by the California Air Resources Board (ARB). In September 2010, ARB issued an 8% reduction target to the SCAG region for the planning year 2020 and a 13% reduction target by 2035. The targets apply to the SCAG region as a whole.

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## EVENTS

### MARCH

- 1st** Regional Council and Policy Committee Meetings
- 9th** SCAG Scholarship Application Deadline
- 21st** RC/Joint Policy Committees Workshop

### APRIL

- 4–5** 2012 Regional Conference and General Assembly